

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Editorially amend claim 1.
2. Respectfully traverse all prior art rejections.

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) and (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication 2003/0194263 to Ueda et al. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) and (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication 2003/0098216 to Hayashi. Claims 6, 7-9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication 2003/0098216 to Hayashi in view of U.S. Publication 2004/0026201 to Imasaka et al. Other dependent claims have sustained prior art rejections premised on combinations of the foregoing references with one or more further references.

All prior art rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

U.S. Publication 2003/0194263 to Ueda et al.

It is respectfully requested that U.S. Publication 2003/0194263 to Ueda et al. be withdrawn as a reference. U.S. Publication 2003/0194263 to Ueda et al. has a US filing date of April 14, 2003, which is subsequent to Applicants' Japanese priority date of February 28, 2003. Subsequent to the electronic filing of this Amendment After Final, Applicants will be filing (via the PTO mail room) a verified translation of Applicants'

priority document in accordance with MPEP § 201.15. Therefore, U.S. Publication 2003/0194263 to Ueda et al. will be overcome, and should be removed.

U.S. Publication 2003/0103848 to Hayashi

U.S. Publication 2003/0103848 to Hayashi provides a first one-way clutch assembly 66 located between rotary shaft 16 and an inner cylindrical portion 17L of a pulley 17 (see Fig. 4). The first one-way clutch assembly 66 includes an outer ring 69 and an inner ring 70. The inner ring 70 is fixedly connected to the outer circumferential surface of rotary shaft 16 and is surrounded by outer ring 69. Balls 71 are circumferentially arranged between outer ring 69 and inner ring 70 so that outer ring 69 rotates relative to inner ring 70. A plurality of recesses 72 are formed in the inner circumferential wall of outer ring 69 at equiangular positions around rotary shaft 16. Each recess 72 accommodates a roller 74. See, e.g., paragraphs 0050 – 0051 of U.S. Publication 2003/0103848 to Hayashi. U.S. Publication 2003/0103848 to Hayashi also discloses a second one-way clutch assembly 85 between rotor 83 and rotary shaft 16. The second one-way clutch assembly 85 has substantially the same structure as the first one-way clutch assembly 66. Inner ring 70 is fixedly connected to connecting member 86 that is secured to the outer circumferential surface of rotary shaft 16. See, e.g., paragraph 0060.

The first inner ring of U.S. Publication 2003/0103848 to Hayashi does not have an annular recess provided in its inner periphery, as required by independent claim 1. Nor does Hayashi teach or disclose "an exterior surface of the first inner ring has a curved contour for defining an annular recess which accommodates at least a portion of the second one-way clutch between the first one-way clutch and a rotating shaft" as required by independent claim 7.

In fact, the first inner ring 70 of U.S. Publication 2003/0103848 to Hayashi is relative square in cross section as seen in Fig. 4. The first and second clutches of U.S. Publication 2003/0103848 to Hayashi may be somewhat overlapping in the axially sense along shaft 16, but such overlapping is caused by the stepped configuration of pulley 17, not first inner ring 70.

The annular recess provided in Applicant's first clutch inner ring advantageously allows both the first and second clutch to directly contact the rotating shaft, and yet be compact in an axial direction along shaft 16. Such advantages are not realized or suggested by the applied prior art.

D. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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